

ARCTIC REFUGE WILDERNESS

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, although nearly 95 percent of Alaska's North Slope is available for drilling, international petroleum companies are still pushing Congress to open the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil and gas exploration and development.

I am pleased to join my colleagues Representative MARKEY and Representative NANCY JOHNSON as we continue efforts to permanently protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

My constituents in Rochester, New York are hurting due to the high energy prices.

But opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas development is not the answer.

Forget for the moment that this area is the heart of a refuge which serves as critical breeding or migratory habitat for over 200 species of animals and more than 180 bird species and that exploration could cause significant environmental damage.

I would like to remind my colleagues that studies by the U.S. Geological Survey and the General Accounting Office have concluded there is probably far less oil in the Arctic Refuge than previously believed.

And if we allowed drilling for oil in the Alaskan wildlife refuge, it would not produce any oil for an estimated 10 years.

Even then, it would not significantly reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil.

During full operating capacity, ANWR would supply only about 2 percent of America's oil demand in a given year.

Finally, none of the North Slope oil reaches the East Coast because it is too far to transport.

Therefore, development in ANWR would not have any measurable impact on home heating oil shortages or prices in the Northeast.

The Energy Department's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colorado claims that 100% of U.S. electricity needs could be met by installing just 17 square miles of rooftop solar panels in each state. The possibilities are endless if we devote the necessary resources and expertise to meeting our domestic energy demand.

IN RECOGNITION OF GEORGE A. CASTRO, II, RECIPIENT OF THE HISPANIC AMERICAN RECOGNITION AWARD

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize George A. Castro, II, President of the Hispanic American Association for Political Awareness, for his personal achievements and for his outstanding contributions to his community. Mr. Castro will receive the Hispanic

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

American Recognition Award from Mayor Jim McGreevey on February 25, 2001.

George A. Castro, II emigrated to the United States from Colombia in 1985 with only his lucky quarter and a strong desire for success. A short time later, he started his first business, a cleaning company, which grew to 60 employees in just a few years. The rapid growth of the company allowed it to bid on the state's largest jobs.

In 1989, Mr. Castro received his real estate license and gained employment at an ERA office in Union County, where he became the top-producing seller with more than \$10 million in sales after his first year and \$27 million the following year. In 1991, Mr. Castro opened his own office, Countywide-Realty, as an independent broker. Within a year and a half, Countywide was one of the most successful real estate offices in New Jersey. The office joined the Century 21 franchise in 1995, eventually changing its name to Century 21 Atlantic.

Recently, Century 21 Atlantic received Century 21's prestigious Double Centurion Office award for achieving more than \$90 million in sales in 1999, a 300% increase over the previous year.

Mr. Castro is an accomplished businessman and community activist. The success of Century 21 Atlantic and the Ritz Theatre and Performing Arts Center, which he purchased in 1994, has made him a role model for the Hispanic community. Mr. Castro serves as the Chairman of the Hispanic Political Action Committee and is a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment for the City of Elizabeth. He also participates in the Boy Scouts of America, Eastern Union County.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing George A. Castro, II for all he has accomplished and for all he has contributed to his community.

HONORING THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE MADE BY 28 UNITED STATES SOLDIERS KILLED DURING OPERATION DESERT STORM

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express concern over the second section of H. Con. Res. 39, honoring the sacrifices of the heroic U.S. soldiers killed by an Iraqi missile attack ten years ago.

Mr. Speaker, in this section, Congress "resolves to support appropriate and effective theater missile defense programs to help prevent attacks on forward deployed United States forces from occurring again." Undoubtedly, we must work to ensure that American service men and women are never again victim to such a tragedy. But would the most futuristic theater missile defense system the Pentagon is currently working on the Theater High-Altitude Area Defense system, or THAAD, have helped our soldiers ten years ago? Probably not: the system failed six consecutive tests before finally intercepting a tar-

get missile for the first time in June 1999. Many experts believe this system will be no more effective than our patriot missiles at defending an attack like the one on American troops in Saudi Arabia ten years ago. Meanwhile, Mr. Speaker, projected costs for construction of THAAD are now estimated at \$9.5 billion.

Mr. Speaker, for those who believe in the necessity of missile defense, there are other less expensive and more effective theater missile defense programs in development that might represent an improvement on the system that failed the twenty-eight soldiers we honor today. To the extent we promote such cost-effective weaponry through this resolution, we duly recognize the valor of these men and women. To the extent, however, this resolution supplies blanket endorsement of any theater missile defense system, we do not accomplish a lofty purpose.

HONORING DR. MARGARET DRICKAMER FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure, though a sad heart, that I pay tribute to an outstanding leader in geriatric medicine and a tremendous asset to the VA Connecticut Health System, Dr. Margaret Drickamer, as she retires from her service to the United States Veterans Administration.

It has been nearly fifteen years since Dr. Drickamer first came to the VA Medical Center in West Haven, Connecticut as the Medical Director of the then Nursing Home Care Unit. In that time, Dr. Drickamer has been responsible for the complete reorganization of the department as well as the expansion of services available to Connecticut veterans—making a real difference in lives of many. Today, the section of Geriatrics and Extended Care is a multi-faceted program which provides a continuum of inpatient, outpatient and consultative services.

When Dr. Drickamer first came to the VA, she was charged with the oversight of the Nursing Home Care Unit, an inpatient unit which provided long-term, residential nursing care for several dozen veterans. Under her leadership, this small unit has been transformed into a successful continuum of care, including an extended inpatient care unit, a geriatric day hospital program, an expanded geriatrics clinic, a homebased primary care program and a palliative care program. The multitude of services now offered by the Geriatrics and Extended Care section have had an extraordinary impact on thousands of Connecticut veterans.

Dr. Drickamer's success can be attributed to her endless commitment to the patients of the Medical Center and the outstanding compassion she demonstrates each day. Each time I visit the Medical Center, I am told by patients how much they depend on Dr. Drickamer, both as their doctor and, more importantly, their friend. Equally important is her dedication